National Archery in the Schools Program

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is a joint venture between state Departments of Education and Wildlife. Several archery equipment manufacturers and organizations are also partners. The program promotes student education and participation in the life long sport of Archery. The program's focus is to provide International style target archery training in physical education classes, for grades 4-12.

Department of Natural Resources Objective: Declining participation in the shooting sports threatens financial and public support for wildlife conservation. The NASP has been successful in teaching 1.4 million students during school hours in 2006 alone. We expect many of these young people to make Archery a life sport.

Department of Education Objective: *Engage more students in the educational process to improve classroom performance and reduce dropout rates.* The national school dropout rate is 10%. Most students (88%) who drop out of school indicate they were not involved in extra-curricular activities. Archery taught by the NASP is accessible to all students of nearly all age groups. Educators are reporting that the NASP "engages the unengaged" and inspires students to greater achievement in school.

Development History: The program began in Kentucky in 2002 with the training of 39 educators and 22 middle school pilot projects. At the conclusion of their 2-week target archery class, 1,600 students were surveyed (55% boys and 45% girls). Survey results are as follows:

Before the Class
- 72% did not own a bow & 62% had never shot a bow

After the Class
- 89% enjoyed the archery class
- 45% wanted to own archery equipment
- 59% wanted to become target archers
- 38% wanted to try bowhunting

Current Status (as of January 2007)
- 650+ Kentucky schools (1 in 3) have adopted the program.
- 2003 NASP KY Championship attracted 651 student archers.
- 2004 NASP Championship, held in Louisville, attracted 1,291 student archers.
- 2005 NASP Championship attracted 1,702 student archers.
- 2006 NASP Championship attracted 2,164 student archers.

- 50 states and 14 countries have inquired about the program. Countries include; Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Iraq, Japan, Spain, Finland, Morocco, and Barbados.
- 40 States have adopted the program as of 2006. Australia has also joined NASP. New Hampshire and South Dakota are planned for January and February 2007

For more information, on NASP archery please visit www.archeryintheschools.org

NASP and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources
The National Archery in the Schools Program in Iowa is coordinated through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Currently there are over 50 Iowa schools participating in the program. The first NASP Iowa Championship is scheduled for March 2008. The Iowa DNR provides NASP Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) training throughout the state to teachers and archery program organizers. BAI training is provided at no cost to teachers conducting NASP programs as part of a 2 week in-school course. To start a NASP program in your school, to schedule or sign up for training, or for questions on NASP in Iowa, contact Ben Berka, Shooting Sports Coordinator for the Iowa DNR at 515-281-0140 or at Ben.Berka@dnr.state.ia.us

About the Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation
The Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed to promote youth archery in Iowa. The organization's funding is provided by the Iowa State Archery Association, the Iowa Bowhunter's Association, the Iowa National Wild Turkey Federation and through generous donations from companies and individuals. The Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation provides funding for NASP archery equipment through a grant program coordinated with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For more information on the Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation or to donate, contact John Carlson at 641-592-1991 or at johnarch@wctatel.net